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October 13, 2014

Mr. Phillip Lindley
Executive Director
ConnectME Authority
78 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0078
E: phil.lindley@maine.gov

Dear Mr. Lindley,

I am writing, on behalf of the Island Institute, to express our support for the Diamond Cove's ConnectME grant. I understand that this week the ConnectME board will be meeting to evaluate the grant that had been previously awarded to Diamond Cove for their enhanced internet project. I understand this grant was contested by Fairpoint who claim that they already adequately serve this community.

I have spoken to Matt Hoffner, the president of the Diamond Cove homeowner association who has participated in our task force to address better internet access for Maine's island and coastal towns. As you know, improving internet speed and reliability is critical to the economic development efforts in any of these coastal communities. My understanding of the new technology that will be deployed at Diamond Cove is that it provides a significant leap forward to Tier 5 speeds for the community without the "line of sight" issues that have plagued this wireless offering in the past.

We are excited to see this technology implemented and believe that if it is successful, it offers a great opportunity for other Maine island communities as well. We support the Diamond Cove application for the ConnectME grant and would ask the board to give it favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Shey Conover
Chief Operating Officer